

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W

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O 111845Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0268

INFO AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 1686

EXDIS

DEPT PASS TO SEC FROM ASSISTANT SECY ROGERS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UR, US

SUBJ: CONVERSATION WITH PRESIDENT BORDABERRY

1. I HAD A HALF HOUR MEETING WITH PRESIDENT BORDABERRY. HE HAD PERUSED YOUR SPEECH, AND BEGAN BY EXPRESSING ADMIRATION FOR THE MANNER IN WHICH YOU HAD FACED UP TO THE PANAMA ISSUE. WITH THE OVERALL TONE OF THE SPEECH YOU HAD ADEPTLY "PUT THE BALL BACK INTO PLAY".

2. REGARDING OAS-GOU MATTERS IN GENERAL THE PRESIDENT WAS STRAIGHTFORWARD. URUGUAYAN POLICY IN MOST AREAS CLEARLY PARALLELED THAT OF THE U.S. THIS IS NOT BECAUSE URUGUAY'S SERVILE. IT IS RATHER BECAUSE URUGUAY'S VIEWS ON OIL, RAW MATERIALS PRICES, LEADERSHIP IN LATIN AMERICA, THIRD WORLD POLITICKING AND SO FORTH COINCIDE WITH OURS. IT WOULD NOT SUIT URUGUAY, HE SAID, TO BE INVOLVED IN A CONFRONTATION WITH THE US BEHIND LATIN AMERICAN LEADERSHIP FOR WHICH READ VENEZUELA. THAT LEADERSHIP IS NOT TO URUGUAY'S LIKING.

3. HE MADE A SPECIAL POINT OF THE GRIEVOUS HURT TO URUGUAY FROM THE INCREASE IN ENERGY COSTS AND THE RESULTANT LOSS OF URUGUAY'S EXPORT MARKETS,

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EXPECIALLY OF MEAT IN THE ECM. THE PUMP PRICE OF

GASOLINE HAD BEEN INCREASED FOUR-FOLD HERE. AS A RESULT THERE HAVE BEEN SOME ECONOMIES IN GASOLINE CONSUMPTION. BUT HE POINTED OUT THAT URUGUAY'S BALANCE OF PAYMENTS DEFICIT THIS YEAR IS PRECISELY MEASURED BY THE INCREASE IN ITS BILL FOR OIL IMPORTS FROM \$50,000,000 TO \$150,000,000. HE NOTED THAT URUGUAY IS A COUNTRY WHICH HAS LONG ENJOYED A HIGH STANDARD OF LIVING. THE ENERGY CRISIS IN THIS SENSE WAS LESS HARSH FOR BANGLADESH THAN FOR URUGUAY. COMMENTING ON "KISSINGER'S OIL POLICY", HE SAID URUGUAY FEELS ITSELF REPRESENTED IN PARIS BY THE US BECAUSE HE IS FULLY BEHIND THE OIL POLICY THAT YOU HAVE ENUNCIATED.

4. COMMENT: AMB. SIRACUSA TELLS ME THAT HE HAS RARELY SEEN PRESIDENT BORDABERRY AS ANIMATED AND ARTICULATE AS HE WAS IN OUR RELATIVELY BRIEF MEETING. HIS KNOWLEDGE OF HEMISPHERIC AFFAIRS, HIS SINCERITY, AND HIS RESPECT FOR THE UNITED STATES ARE IMPRESSIVE. OBVIOUSLY, THEY ARE ONE OF OUR BEST FRIENDS IN THE HEMISPHERE.

HILL

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED SECRETARY.

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